

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Kindly amend the specification as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:*

**Please replace paragraph [0005] as follows:**

[0005] At present several *Escherichia coli* genes coding for putative membrane proteins enhancing L-amino acid production are disclosed. Additional copy of *rhtB* gene makes a bacterium more resistant to L-homoserine and enhances production of L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-alanine, L-valine and L-isoleucine (European patent application EP994190A2). Additional copy of *rhtC* gene makes a bacterium more resistant to L-homoserine and L-threonine and enhances production of L-homoserine, L-threonine and L-leucine (European patent application EP1013765A1). Additional copy of *yahN*, *yeaS*, *yfiK* and *yggA* genes enhance production of L-glutamic acid, L-lysine, L-threonine L-alanine, L-histidine, L-proline, L-arginine, L-valine and L-isoleucine (European patent application EP1016710A2). And though complete genome sequence of *Escherichia coli* strain K-12 is described (Blattner F. R., Plunkett G., Bloch C. A. et al., *Science*, 227, 1453-1474, 1997; <ftp://ftp.genetics.wisc.edu/pub/sequence/ecolim52.seq.gz>), there are many ORFs, the function of which still remains unknown.